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Highlights of Official Child Neglect and Abuse Reporting 1986

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Special recognition is given the state liaisons and those protective service workers throughout the country whose efforts provide the data on reports of child abuse and neglect.

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Introduction

This report represents an updated profile of officially reported child maltreatment in the United States and participating jurisdictions as provided through the National Study on Child Neglect and Abuse Reporting. The National Study is a project conducted since 1974 by the American Association for Protecting Children, a division of The American Humane Association, and funded through the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The information in this report is derived from official reports of child maltreatment documented by child protective services (CPS) agencies nationwide during 1986. It focuses on the nature and volume of reporting to CPS agencies, on the characteristics of the reported cases, and on the nature of the response on the part of CPS agencies to reported cases. (Identifying information, such as names or addresses, is not collected.)

Since the first national analysis of reporting statistics was issued in 1976, this information has served to keep a diverse audience of legislators, administrators, planners, and researchers informed on the status of reported child maltreatment. Special analyses of the data at the state and local levels have provided a useful tool to CPS administrators in evaluating their programs and in more informed decisionmaking for the provision of child protective services. Other special analyses performed in conjunction with the needs of a variety of researchers have enhanced overall knowledge with respect to child abuse and neglect.

Methodology

This section discusses methodological issues relevant to analyzing National Study data from 1985 and 1986 and is also applicable to prior years. These issues relate to the general structure of the data base. Issues of compatibility and representativeness are crucial. The consequences of these issues and the resulting analytical approach employed throughout the report are discussed in this chapter.

General Structural Issues

For all years, the National Study data base contains information on officially reported cases of child abuse and neglect and includes cases that have been substantiated upon further investigation as well as cases that were determined to be unfounded. Reports are entered into the data base by state and by calendar year. Finally, data are entered into the data base by variable by year and each variable — rather than each report — is dealt with individually in terms of compatibility; for example, a state may have compatible data on child age, sex and race which will be included while the type of report may be missing, and source of report may be incompatible and excluded.

A number of issues result from these basic structural characteristics of the data base. First, strictly speaking, interpretations must be confined to **official reports only;** the relation between official reports and all incidents of child maltreatment is unknown. However, there are supplementary data sources that shed some light on reporting biases and allow one to draw out implications beyond the universe of official reports. (cf. Westat, 1987).

Second, the reader must understand that the data being analyzed come from substantiated and unsubstantiated reports, and that this affects different variables in different ways. There are two basic variable types in the data base: those that are recorded for all cases regardless of what the investigation reveals, and those that are usually recorded only if the investigation reveals that the case is valid. Examples of the former are such variables as type and source of report and demographic descriptors; examples of the latter are type of maltreatment and services provided. Thus, in

effect, each variable in the data base is based on a different sample of reports. For the most part, this report does not deal with this distinction, and it treats each variable as indicative of what all official reports — whether substantiated or not — reveal.

Third, it must be remembered that a different subset of states comprise the national data base each year, although by and large there is considerable continuity. That is, a certain minority of states has never participated in the National Study; another group of states has consistently participated; some states have been added over time; and a few states have dropped out for a year to two or ceased to participate altogether for various reasons. The crucial issue is whether each year's group of states is representative of the nation as a whole. (It should be pointed out that, at least, a majority of states — 28 in 1986 — do participate in the National Study, which assures a certain degree of representativeness.)

The Reporting Study has studied this representativeness issue and has determined that, at minimum, participating states do not vary from nonparticipating states in terms of overall reporting rates (Breed, et al., 1983, also see Appendix C). What has not been fully studied, however, is the extent to which specific variables are affected by the inclusion of specific states' data. What is clear is that certain variables, particularly reporting source, child demographics, caretaker characteristics, perpetrator demographics, family characteristics, etc. are fairly stable between states. Other "policy laden" variables such as maltreatment, case status, child-perpetrator relationship, services and, of course, case determination are less consistent from state to state.

One safeguard that is built into the system to help deal with this issue is the minimal data set concept, which assures that noncompatible data are excluded from the national data base. That is, data from each state for each year are "mapped" variable-by-variable into the general categories that comprise the minimal data set, and only variables that meet certain minimal sufficiency criteria are included. This means that participating states need not be involved in all variable distributions, and that a different subset of states comprise each variable — even for the same calendar year. Although this process is complex and potentially confusing in that it results in a different number of reports for each table, this process does assure reasonable data compatibility over a large number of states using different data collection systems. Except in a few cases, no additional study of data compatibility was done for this report.

Overall Approach

The basic purpose of the report is to examine the status, as of 1986, of the variables contained in the National Study data base. In addition, some comparative trends are included to provide a context for the current status. Because of the nature of the data base, a conservative approach has been adopted in which only clear trends are highlighted and in which the significance of fluctuating or uncertain data is minimized.

Despite the methodological difficulties associated with developing and interpreting these data, the approach has resulted in the development of the "best" data available on child abuse and neglect reporting that is national in focus. The method has advantages over approaches that rely on aggregate data collection surveys and those that are based on sampling. By comparison with aggregate methods, the "case" level information allows for a variety of analyses because of the ability to select and compare subsets of the data. This strength of the method considerably expands the possibilities for analysis and is not feasible with aggregate methods alone.

The Reporting Study is also considerably less expensive and less burdensome on workers in agencies who would otherwise be required to use standardized instruments in addition to the other record keeping activities. The study method also has the advantage of representing a much broader range of agency types than is feasible with sampling methods. In addition, it allows for continuity of data collection over time, whereas sampling is generally feasible over a circumscribed period of time. This strength of the method permits the observation of variation in the implementation of CPS policy between jurisdictions and both short and long term trends.

Inferential Statistics

Inferential statistical tests of distributional differences between the items that make up a variable or from year to year are generally not meaningful with these data. For large samples, (n > two to three thousand) elementary nonparametric tests such as chi-square or least squares techniques (ANOVA, t-test, etc.) yield low probabilities of accepting the null-hypothesis (i.e. $p < 0.05$) even though differences appear small. Since most samples reported here are quite large, the reader is urged to make their own judgment concerning whether differences among variables are significant. Some differences considered important by the study staff and based on long term familiarity with the data, are noted.

Statistical Relationships and Cause and Effect Conclusions

The National Study methodology has attempted to group maltreatment conditions and classify family characteristics in a manner to maximize compatibility among states. However, the fact remains that virtually every state uses different data instruments with different definitions and different data collection procedures. While we are reasonably confident that the patterns identified here reflect real characteristics in official reports of abuse and neglect, we are not in a strong position to make well-informed judgments about causal relationships based on these data alone. The reader is urged to show similar restraint in using these data for this purpose. Hopefully, this presentation of official reports will help to identify aspects of child neglect and abuse reporting which warrant further investigation and help to suggest a research agenda for policymakers and practitioners in child protective services.

Characteristics of Reporting to Child Protective Services

National Reporting Over Time

Although not all states and jurisdictions contribute case level data to the National Reporting Study, all states have been surveyed in order to obtain data on report totals, sources of the totals, and selected characteristics of the reporting systems. This survey information provides the basis for the estimates of reporting levels and rates contained in this section.

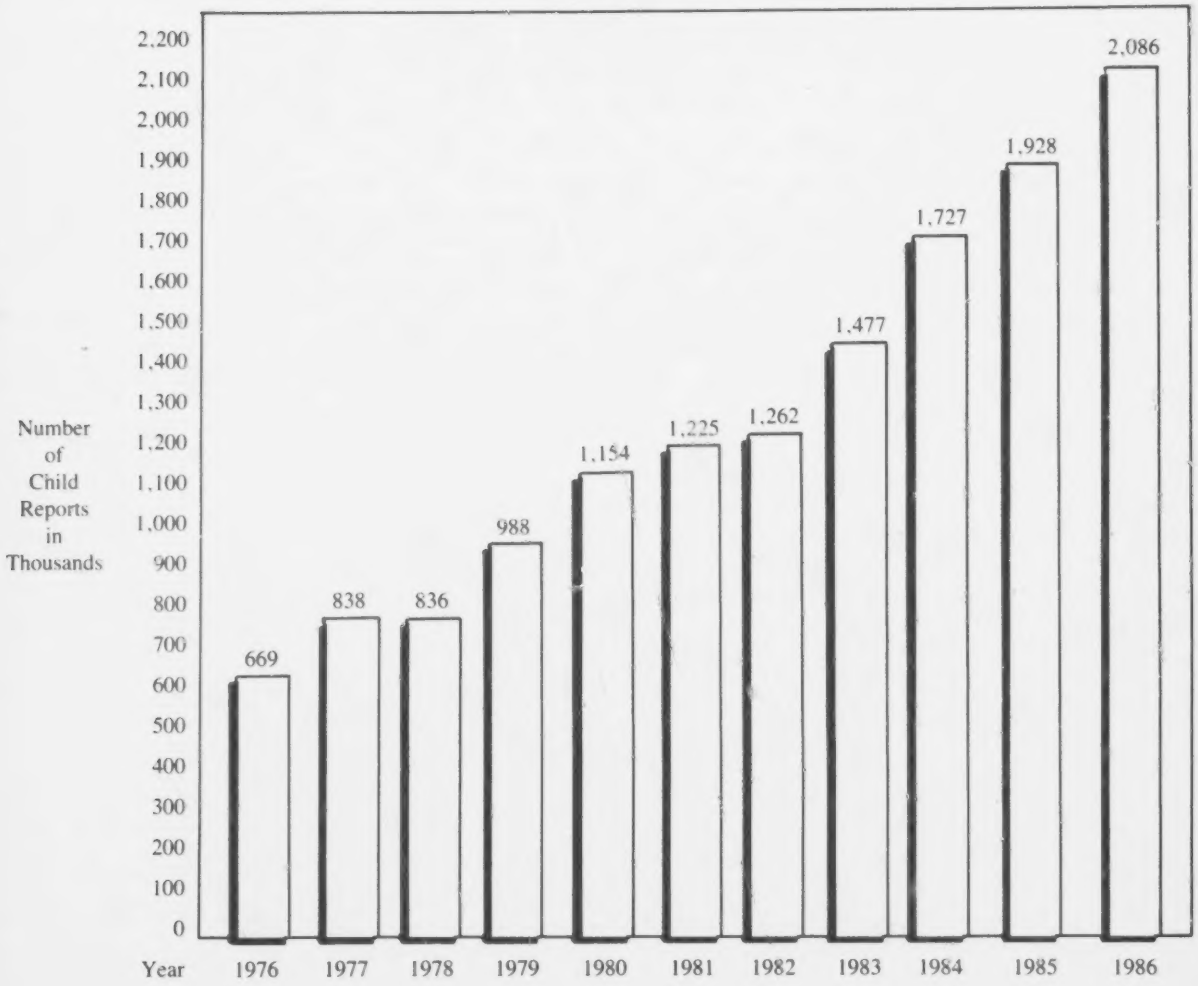
An estimated 2,086,000 children were reported for child abuse and neglect to child protective services agencies in the United States and participating jurisdictions in 1986. The rate of reporting is estimated at 32.8 children per 1,000 U.S. child population in 1986. Similarly, an estimated 1,335,000 families were reported in 1986. The total number of families reported is a general indicator of the level of activity on the part of CPS, each roughly corresponding to the number of investigations performed.

With the exception of eight states, these totals include duplicate reports. That is to say, duplicate reports occur when a particular child and/or family is reported more than once in a given year; the estimates presented here reflect duplicated reporting.

The recent Westat Incidence Study estimates that 1,657,600 children were reported to CPS agencies nationally in 1986 (Westat, 1987). This estimate is based on an unduplicated count compared to the duplicated count provided by this study. If applied to the estimate of the reporting study, the incidence study estimate would imply that roughly 80 percent of the children reported are new reports during the calendar year. Given the differences in methods of enumeration and the range of variation for the incidence study (1,282,461 to 2,032,798 with a 95 percent confidence interval) both studies appear to yield consistent estimates of reporting.

Information on child report level and rate changes respectively are provided in Figures 1 and 2. Overall child reporting levels have increased 212 percent between 1976 and 1986, the only years for which this information is available. Although report levels have increased overall, the rate of increase declined between 1976 and 1982, as indicated in Figure 1. Between 1983 and 1986 reporting has increased by an average of 13.4 percent each year. As might be expected, changes in child reporting rates (defined as the number of children reported per 1000 children in the U.S.) as shown in Figure 2 also follow a similar pattern over time.

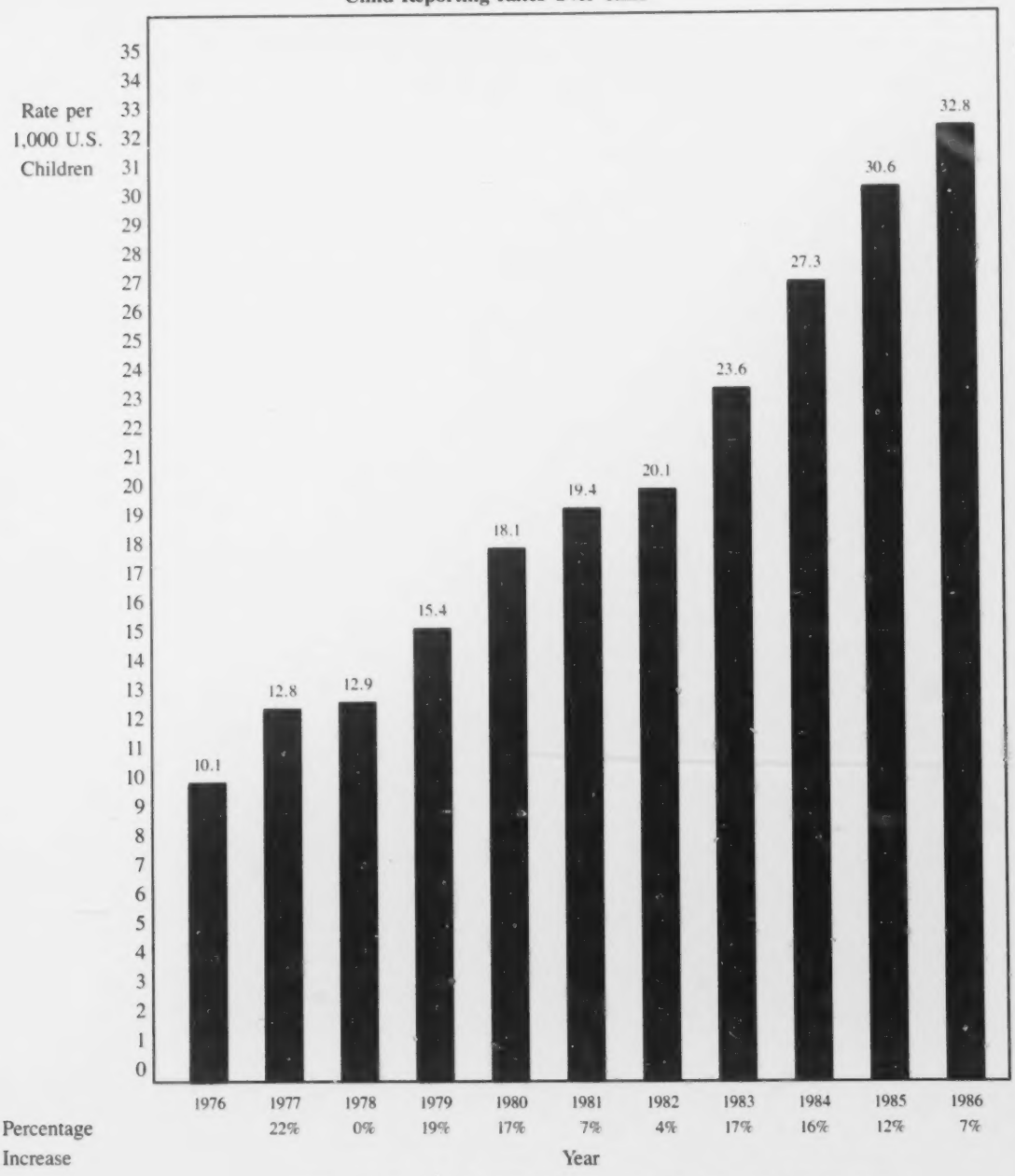
Figure 1
National Estimates of Child Abuse and Neglect Reports
1976–1986



Child totals include the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam

Figure 2

Child Reporting Rates Over Time



Child totals from each of 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia

[1] *The figures for percentage change from year to year for Figures 1 and 2 are not equal since in Figure 1 only the change in the level of reports is portrayed, while Figure 2 reflects changes both in the levels of reports and in the U.S. child population.*

Report Totals and Involved Child Reporting Rates by Jurisdiction

Table 1 shows 1986 family totals and numbers of involved children within each of the jurisdictions or as estimated by national study staff. These totals include both substantiated and unsubstantiated cases. The child reporting rates for 1982 through 1986 are based on provisional child population estimates for each year from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1985, P-25, 1010).

There is considerable variation in involved child reporting rates among the jurisdictions, from a low of 7.2 to a high of 58.6 children per 1,000 child population in 1986.

In general, these rates represent total reporting for each state; however, reports from special jurisdictions within some states, such as Native American reservations, may not be included. Among the reasons for the variation is that child protective services reporting systems vary both with respect to policy and practice, including those that pertain to how reports are counted. The level of public awareness and proactive efforts on the part of a community and the media related to identifying children at risk of maltreatment also affects reporting rates. It is not possible to draw a connection between reporting rates and actual incidence of maltreatment. By definition, maltreated children and families which are not reported are not accounted for in reporting statistics. Thus, it would be inappropriate to surmise from these statistics that Florida, at 50.0 children reported per 1,000 children, has more child maltreatment than New York with 35.9 children reported per 1,000 children. It is possible to conclude that, given the number of children living in each state, more children in Florida were identified through the reporting system there.

Information Sources

In general, states are able to provide estimates or counts of the number of families or children which were reported in 1986 (see Appendix C). Among all U.S. states and territories, 66 percent are able to provide official information on the number of families reported (source codes A to E) and 65 percent are able to provide this information for children. For all states, it is possible to estimate either children or families given the information provided by that state alone, or by applying averages derived from data provided by other states (see Table 1 footnotes).

Duplication

A duplicated report exists when a family or child previously reported is enumerated again as part of the total reports during the calendar year. Potentially, a family or child can be re-reported at any time either during or after an investigation, also a family can be re-reported regardless of whether it is currently being served by CPS. Most states and territories provide only duplicated counts. Only eight out of 54 states and territories do not provide duplicated report totals for either children or families.

Of the 11 states in 1986 that provided data on unduplicated numbers of children reported, only four were also able to provide a duplicated count as well. On average among these four states, 75 percent of the children reported are newly reported to these agencies during the calendar year. While based on only four states, this average compares favorably to the 80 percent level obtained by comparing Incidence Study estimates (Westat, 1987) and Reporting Study estimates as noted above (see page 10).

Table 1

1986 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Totals And Rates

	Number of Families Reported	Number of Children Reported	Child Report Rates: Involved Children Per 1,000 U.S. Children				
			1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
National	1,334,733	2,086,112	32.8	30.6	27.3	23.6	20.1
State							
Alabama	18,558[F,1]	29,693[C,1]	26.63	28.10	25.59	21.04	21.24
Alaska	5,384[B,2]	9,171[B,2]	53.63	47.27	43.53	32.45	22.55
Arizona	25,248[B,1]	38,861[B,1]	42.66	45.42	23.12	N/A	N/A
Arkansas	14,159[B,1]	22,241[B,1]	34.48	31.09	32.17	25.89	23.34
California	263,354[C,1]	341,756[C,1]	48.07	43.24	37.57	35.24	33.71
Colorado	8,640[H,1]	13,410[H,1]	15.48	15.52	15.67	N/A	N/A
Connecticut	11,898[B,2]	18,552[B,2]	24.47	22.23	22.78	18.55	15.51
Delaware	3,082[B,1]	4,931[F,1]	30.82	38.95	50.88	52.66	N/A
District of Columbia	3,416[H,1]	5,990[H,1]	43.72	45.38	28.94	49.27	39.74
Florida	82,184[F,1]	131,495[B,1]	50.00	55.25	34.88	39.33	33.25
Georgia	31,108[B,1]	49,773[F,1]	29.06	25.74	22.20	21.70	18.61
Hawaii	3,313[B,1]	4,750[B,1]	16.61	14.03	13.84	11.21	10.78
Idaho	8,064[D,2]	12,902[F,2]	41.49	39.16	35.30	N/A	20.00
Illinois	46,711[B,1]	80,797[B,1]	26.42	22.47	21.70	20.55	19.58
Indiana	23,571[B,1]	33,771[B,1]	22.86	22.49	19.15	18.20	15.53
Iowa	16,690[B,1]	26,068[B,1]	34.90	33.03	31.95	29.52	28.14
Kansas	13,107[B,1]	24,174[B,1]	37.42	35.48	35.01	32.70	29.65
Kentucky	23,960[B,2]	39,486[B,2]	39.13	34.30	31.76	31.50	29.23
Louisiana	26,950[D,1]	43,120[F,1]	32.01	35.79	25.65	24.61	28.10
Maine	5,627[B,1]	12,380[B,1]	40.99	30.97	44.20	38.54	28.06
Maryland	11,688[F,1]	18,700[E,1]	16.83	17.36	7.44	13.30	N/A
Massachusetts	33,655[B,1]	51,759[B,1]	38.60	34.50	33.99	26.31	20.40
Michigan	42,982[H,1]	95,114[H,1]	38.51	38.31	36.45	34.33	32.10
Minnesota	19,041[C,1]	27,306[C,1]	24.60	19.36	21.08	14.36	12.63
Mississippi	9,908[B,1]	15,853[F,1]	19.79	16.41	8.74	N/A	N/A
Missouri	43,099[B,1]	76,727[B,1]	58.61	57.24	55.13	49.08	42.26
Montana	7,098[B,1]	8,081[B,2]	34.98	43.77	21.72	18.56	18.80
Nebraska	7,919[B,1]	12,670[F,1]	29.67	28.58	18.58	12.29	13.32
Nevada	7,282[B,1]	13,909[G,1]	57.95	55.92	37.59	32.01	36.07
New Hampshire	2,439[F,1]	3,902[C,1]	15.01	23.96	26.62	N/A	N/A
New Jersey	31,508[F,1]	50,413[B,1]	27.53	25.31	23.94	14.12	10.06
New Mexico	5,104[F,1]	8,166[B,1]	18.39	25.49	32.18	N/A	N/A
New York	95,626[B,1]	157,027[B,1]	35.89	31.83	30.69	21.72	N/A
North Carolina	23,542[B,1]	34,959[B,1]	21.53	17.39	16.38	17.00	16.84
North Dakota	3,083[H,1]	4,719[H,1]	24.84	23.95	22.38	19.32	19.37
Ohio	74,935[C,1]	123,643[G,1]	43.32	22.96	32.87	N/A	N/A
Oklahoma	13,804[F,1]	22,087[B,1]	24.57	21.94	19.71	16.50	16.66
Oregon	19,834[B,1]	31,734[F,1]	46.26	41.72	23.33	N/A	N/A
Pennsylvania	12,917[F,1]	20,667[B,1]	7.25	7.29	6.90	5.39	5.22
Rhode Island	5,687[B,2]	6,592[B,2]	29.04	46.28	37.57	N/A	N/A
South Carolina	13,069[D,1]	16,075[G,1]	17.16	24.22	25.84	16.75	25.45
South Dakota	6,308[F,1]	10,093[B,1]	50.97	45.82	49.25	27.34	25.24
Tennessee	27,799[F,2]	44,478[B,2]	35.58	38.22	32.98	29.70	25.83
Texas	72,251[B,1]	116,846[B,1]	23.70	22.63	22.45	21.35	20.21
Utah	11,390[B,1]	18,224[F,1]	29.44	27.53	23.95	N/A	N/A
Vermont	2,594[B,1]	3,813[G,1]	27.24	26.95	22.13	18.91	N/A
Virginia	29,957[F,1]	47,931[B,1]	33.33	34.46	30.00	30.09	28.23
Washington	30,324[B,1]	42,747[B,1]	36.98	33.90	36.51	31.98	36.43
West Virginia	8,065[F,1]	12,904[D,1]	25.60	33.64	32.69	N/A	N/A
Wisconsin	18,024[F,1]	28,838[B,1]	22.69	19.01	13.47	7.46	6.90
Wyoming	2,428[B,1]	3,695[B,1]	23.99	14.49	21.89	20.30	16.30

(Continued)

Table 1

1986 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Totals And Rates *(continued)*

	Number of Families Reported	Number of Children Reported	Child Report Rates: Involved Children Per 1,000 U.S. Children				
			1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
Guam	560[C,1]	866[A,2]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Puerto Rico	5,526[H,1]	11,831[H,1]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Virgin Islands	264[A,1]	422[F,1]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table Footnotes: *The first footnote number, or source code, represents the information source for the number of reports, while the second footnote, or duplication code, indicates whether the report is duplicated. For example, under the column "Number of Families Reported," Alabama is reported as 18,558[F,1], which corresponds to source code F and duplication code 1.*

Duplication Codes:

1 Duplicated reports.
2 Unduplicated reports.

Source Codes:

A Estimate provided by state.
B Number provided by state computer system.
C Number based on a hand count of reports at the state level.
D Number based on counts of reports made by local jurisdictions, e.g. counties.
E Other source.
F Estimate computed based on a nationally derived ratio of children to families or families to children. In 1986, the conversion factor from families to children is 1.60 and from children to families 0.62.
G Estimate computed based on the ratio of children to families or families to children from case reports available to the national study for this state.
H Estimate is based on last year's data as no data were provided for 1986.

U.S. child population in 1986 is 63,275 thousand.

Rate per thousand 2,072,993 (less territories) ÷ 63,275 = 32.76

Case Substantiation

Based on survey data from 30 states, approximately 40 to 42 percent of the children who were reported are substantiated. A national estimate of 737,000[1] children were substantiated for child abuse and neglect by CPS systems in 1986. As with overall reporting, these numbers are obtained primarily from duplicate counts of substantiated cases. The number of cases substantiated does not reflect the number of cases that were opened for protective services; in 1986 the percentage of cases opened for protective services was 45 percent (See Table 11.1, p. 40). By comparison, a national substantiation rate of 53 percent was estimated by the recent Incidence Study (Westat, 1987).

Table 2 displays the number of children associated with substantiated cases. The data from the 30 states that appear in this table were derived from aggregate survey statistics.

A precise definition of case substantiation cannot be offered because the definition and policy varies from state to state. Nevertheless, all definitions imply a degree of certainty that the involved child is in fact at risk, and in many states that some level of intervention is warranted in the child's behalf.

[1] *This estimate is based on the overall rate of substantiated children per 1,000 children for the 30 states, applied to the U.S. child population. The 30 states in the distribution represent 52 percent of the U.S. child population in 1986. A 95 percent confidence interval for substantiated children would be 603,000 to 871,000.*

It cannot be assumed that the lack of substantiating evidence means that no maltreatment has occurred, nor unequivocally that the child is free from risk. On the other hand, reported cases which yield mere perceptions of risk without any apparent validity are a drain on the investigative resources of child protective services.

Table 2

1986 Child Abuse and Neglect Substantiation Totals

State	Number of Children Associated with Substantiated Reports	Percent of All Children Reported Associated with Substantiated Reports
Arkansas	7,333[B.1]	33
Florida	51,890[B.1]	39
Hawaii	2,546[B.1]	54
Illinois	35,956[B.1]	45
Indiana	9,647[B.1]	29
Iowa	6,372[B.1]	24
Kansas	5,470[B.1]	23
Kentucky	19,488[B.1]	46
Louisiana	20,714[B.1]	48
Maine	6,188[A.1]	50
Maryland	5,524[F.1]	30
Massachusetts	20,214[A.1]	39
Minnesota	10,040[C.1]	37
Missouri	32,745[B.1]	43
Nevada	6,081[B.1]	44
New Hampshire	1,338[C.1]	34
New Jersey	17,982[B.1]	36
New Mexico	2,985[B.1]	37
North Carolina	12,379[B.1]	35
Oklahoma	8,533[B.1]	39
Oregon	13,350[B.1]	42
Pennsylvania	7,127[B.1]	34
Rhode Island	3,140[B.2]	48
South Dakota	4,606[B.1]	46
Texas	61,854[B.1]	53
Utah	5,127[B.1]	28
Virginia	11,055[B.1]	23
West Virginia	8,278[D.1]	64
Wisconsin	9,794[B.1]	34
Guam	520[A.2]	60
Total	**408,276**	**Average % 40[1]**

[1] *These data yield a weighted average of 42 percent. The weighted average used here is defined as the number of substantiated children times the percentage substantiated. These are then summed over all included states and divided by the total number of substantiated children (408,276). One interpretation of this statistic is that, if policy for substantiation were consistent for all the states included in this distribution, it is likely that 42 percent of all reported children would be associated with substantiated cases.*

1986 Case Analysis Data

Reporting And The National Study Data Base

In 1986, 28 states and territories representing 62 percent of the total U.S. child population provided the National Study with case data in the form of computer generated files. A listing of these case data participants and the number of reports from each is provided in Appendix B. The remainder of this report is based on the analysis of data from this data base.

Figure 3, displays the relationship between the number of children reported for each year since 1976 and the proportion of those children for whom case data are available in the National Study data base. As can be seen, roughly 40 to 50 percent of the children reported and 28 to 39 states have been a part of the data file since 1979.

Of some interest in considering the National Study data base is the extent to which the data it portrays are representative of the reporting phenomenon throughout the country. The specific characteristics of children, families, and CPS response described in the remainder of this report are not necessarily representative of national experience. On the other hand they represent the most complete picture of the status of the CPS system nationally as of 1986. The distributions discussed in the following sections are based on data from 28 states and, of these, only states with definitionally compatible data. Some of the variables discussed are much more sensitive to local differences in policy and practice than are others. An examination of reporting rates from states which provide case data compared to those which do not indicates that the distributions are similar (see Appendix C).

As a summary of reporting at the national level, only the general data categories are presented. It is important to note that for inclusion in any of the percentage distributions or cross-tabulations presented in this report, each jurisdiction's data must meet systematically applied compatibility criteria. The criteria are applied so that the data included in each analysis will share a common definitional base. These compatibility criteria include definitional similarity, mutual exclusivity across general categories, and exhaustiveness of categories. For this reason, the number of cases included in each table varies as a function of the number of jurisdictions submitting comparable data.

The subcategories that make up the general data categories are presented in Appendix A.[1] The reader is encouraged to consult this listing while reading this report. The data base for the National Study contains considerable detail for each general category, and the information can be made available to interested persons.[2]

Within this report, certain tables were prepared which compare data for 1986 with corresponding data for 1985. Distributions presented in this report for 1985 are adjusted to accommodate data from additional states.

In examining the following tables, it is useful to consider that units of analysis may be children, cases, and perpetrators. In addition to the states included, these factors, singly or in combination, contribute to the variation in the underlying number of "cases" or "N's" associated with each figure or table.

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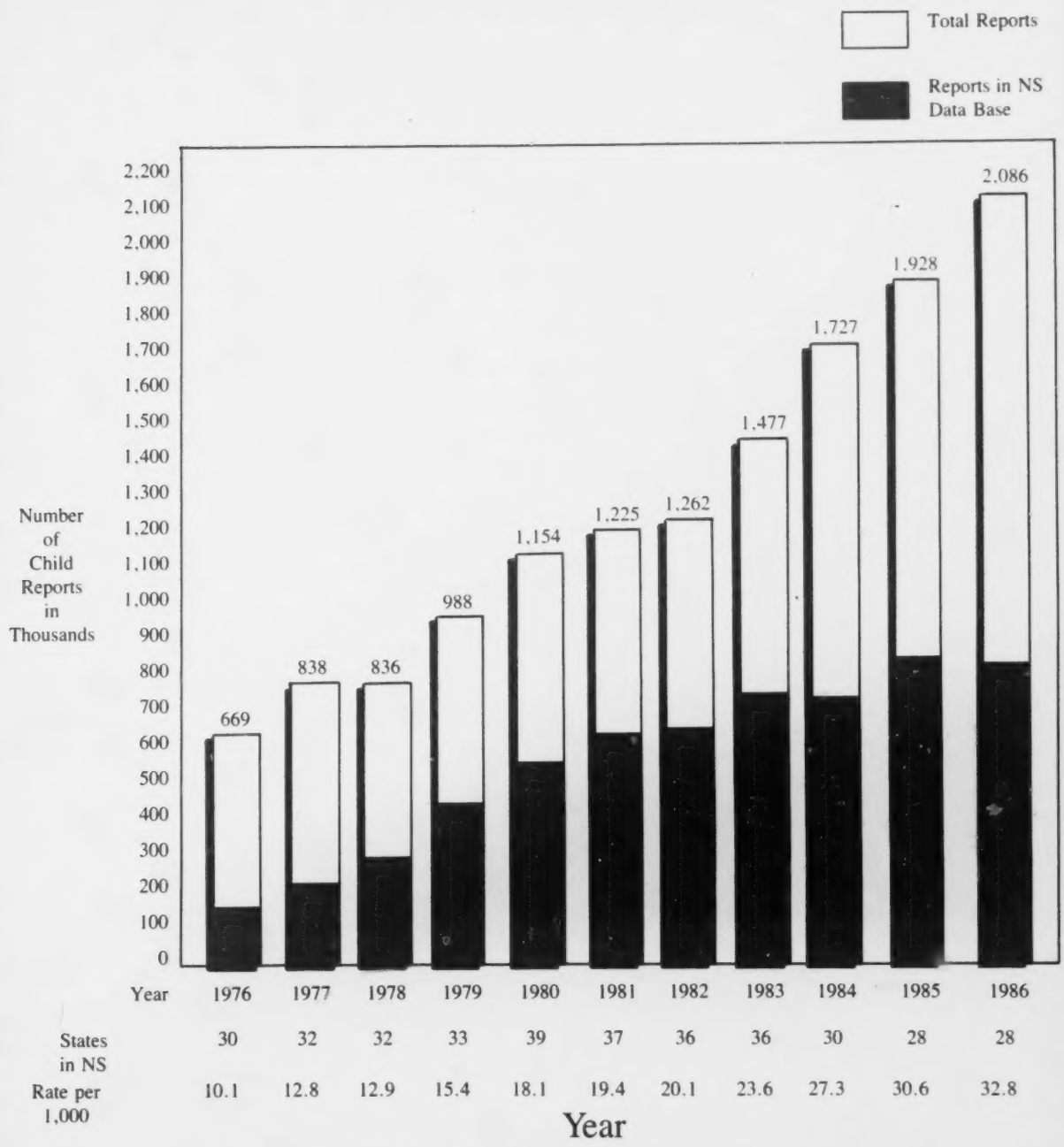
[1] *Detailed information on the methodology of the National Study may be obtained in the publication Trends in Child Abuse and Neglect: A National Perspective (AHA, 1984).*

[2] *Inquiries about the availability of data should be directed to the American Association for Protecting Children in Denver, Colorado, or to the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect in Washington, D.C.*

Figure 3
Child Reporting and Reporting Study Data Base



Child totals include the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam

Type of Report

"Type of Report" serves to summarize what is reported to child protective services agencies from the originating source as opposed to "Type of Maltreatment" which is based on the result of a CPS investigation. As can be determined from Table 3, neglect, alone or in combination with abuse, is by a small margin the most frequently reported type, in approximately 48.2 percent of all reported cases of child abuse and neglect. Abuse is reported in approximately 47.1 percent of all cases, where abuse generally includes reports of both physical and sexual maltreatment. Since 1983, the percentage of neglect reports has declined while the number of abuse reports has increased correspondingly. To some extent this change reflects the increase in reports of sexual abuse. It also appears that the percentage of unspecified type of reports are increasing. This may reflect a general trend toward adopting new categories of report types by some states. For 1986, this distribution is based on data from 15 states.

Table 3
Type of Report

Type of Report	Percentage of Reports 1986 (N = 315,304)	1985 (N = 265,138)	1984 (N = 286,801)	1983 (N = 269,818)
Abuse	35.0%	34.9%	33.5%	27.9%
Neglect	36.1%	38.0%	42.1%	45.7%
Abuse and Neglect	12.1%	14.0%	16.3%	19.0%
Unspecified Type of Report[1]	16.7%	13.1%	8.1%	7.4%

[1] *In 1983, this category also included some "at risk" reports which were recategorized for 1984. These cases represented only one percent of reports in 1983.*

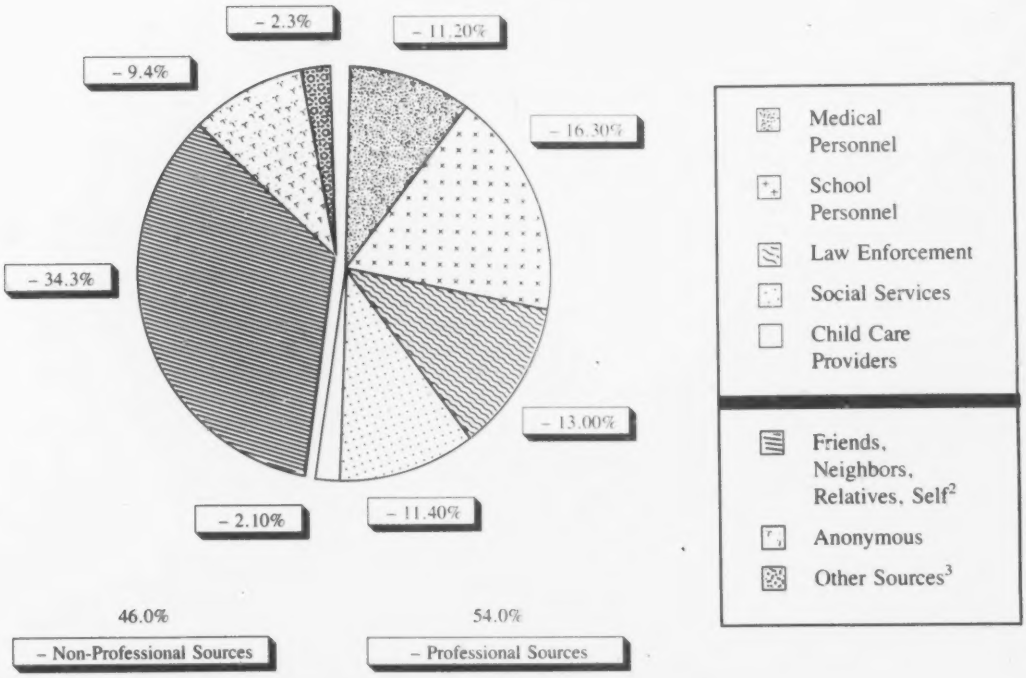
Each type of report category includes cases which are substantiated, unsubstantiated, at risk or have an unspecified substantiation status (i.e., unable to locate, lack of evidence, etc.).

Source of Report

As Figure 4 shows, the types of individuals who report suspected maltreatment to child protective services agencies are predominantly professional sources compared to nonprofessionals. Up until 1984, nonprofessional categories made the majority of reports to CPS. Even so, it is the victim's own friends, neighbors, and relatives who constitute the single largest group of reporters. This represents a significant level of community concern, especially since, typically, nonprofessionals are not required by law to report, whereas most professional groups are required to report. It may be assumed, however, that the nonprofessionals have the greater opportunity for multiple observations of the child.

The distribution of report sources between professional and nonprofessional sources has shown some changes over time. Between 1981 and 1986, professional sources have increased from 46 percent to 54 percent of all sources of report. These increases are associated with school and law enforcement personnel, and again may be due to the increasing levels of sexual abuse reporting.

Figure 4[1]
Source of Report
(N = 421,814 Reports)



[1] *Data for this table is from 22 states.*
[2] *"Self" includes both victim and perpetrators and accounts for about two percent of all reports.*
[3] *"Other Sources" includes, as examples, landlords and religious personnel, individuals not readily categorized by the other standard categories.*

Characteristics Of Child Protective Services Cases

Summary Profile of Reported Families

Table 4 provides an overview of the major demographic characteristics of families who are reported to child protective services agencies. Note that a "caretaker" is defined as an adult who has full-time responsibility for a child and would not include, for example, babysitters or teachers. Also note that most — at least 82 percent — of the perpetrators are also the caretakers.

Table 4

Summary Profile Of Families Reported For Child Maltreatment

Descriptors	1986	Trends/Comments 1976-1986
Involved Child Descriptors		
Age		
(N = 787,865 Children)		
Average Age	7.2 years	Gradual decline from 7.8 to 7.1 years of age from 1976 to 1983. Since 1983 this has been fairly stable.
Sex		
(N = 795,416 Children)		
Males	47.5%	Decline in proportion of males reported from 50.0% in 1976 to 47.5% in 1986.
Females	52.5%	
Race		
(N = 587,970 Children)		
White	65.5%	No discernible trend over time.
Black	20.5%	The distribution for race for 1985 is:
Hispanic	10.8%	White - 62.2%, Black - 20.4%,
Other	3.2%	Hispanic - 14.5%, Other - 2.9%.
Caretaker Descriptors		
Age		
(N = 176,820 Caretakers)		
Average Age	32.4 years	Fairly stable over time with a slight gradual decline in average age from 1976 to 1982. Slight increase from 31.4 years in 1982 to 32.4 in 1986.
Sex		
(N = 230,582 Caretakers)		
Males	39.3%	Gradual decline in proportion of male caretakers from 1976 to 1982. Increase from 36.2% male in 1982 to 39.3% in 1986.
Females	60.7%	
Race		
(N = 185,859 Caretakers)		
White	63.1%	Beginning with 1985 the percentage of all non-white caretaker groups have increased, while whites have decreased.
Black	21.5%	
Hispanic	10.1%	
Other	5.3%	
Family Descriptors		
Caretaker Composition		
(N = 140,659 Family Reports)		
Single-Female-Headed Families	32.5%	Gradual increase between 1976 and 1982 with declines from 1982 (43.4%) to 1986 (32.5%).

(continued on page 21)

Table 4

Summary Profile Of Families Reported For Child Maltreatment *(continued)*

Descriptors	1986	Trends/Comments 1976-1986
Children In Household		
(N = 174,112 Reports)		
Average Number of Children in Household	2.21	Gradual decline since 1976, but relatively consistent since 1979.
Public Assistance Status		
(N = 87,070 Reports)		
Percent of Families Receiving Public Assistance	48.9%	No obvious pattern over time, but has increased from 1982 (43.4%) to 1984 (48.3%) and remained stable.
Perpetrators Descriptors		
Age		
(N = 520,618 Perpetrators)		
Average Age	31.7 years	Relatively consistent over time.
Sex		
(N = 419,825 Perpetrators)		
Males	44.1%	Increase in percentage of males from 40.4% in 1983 to 44.1% in 1986. Relatively consistent before 1983.
Females	55.9%	
Race		
(N = 384,122 Perpetrators)		
White	66.2%	Relatively consistent over time.
Black	20.1%	
Hispanic	11.2%	
Other	2.5%	

Differences between the characteristics of children and families reported for child abuse and neglect and the U.S. population follow the patterns of prior years. The race distribution of the children involved differs from that for all U.S. children in that 66 percent of the involved children are white, compared to an estimated 81 percent of all U.S. children in 1985. (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1986, P-25, 985). Age also differs such that the average age of involved children is 7.2 years versus 8.6 years for all U.S. children. (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1986, P-25, 485) The over-representation of young children can also be seen in Table 5 below.

Table 5

Comparison Of Age Descriptors

Age	Child Abuse And Neglect	
	All U.S. Children[1]	Involved Children[2]
0 – 5	34%	43%
6 – 11	31%	33%
12 – 17	35%	24%
Total	**100%**	**100%**

[1] *Source is the U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex and Race: 1980 to 1985," Series P-25, 985; 1986.*

[2] *Source is the National Study on Child Neglect and Abuse Reporting data base, 1986.*

The over-representation of younger and minority children has been a common characteristic of reporting data since at least 1976. Among possible reasons for this are investigative priorities, perceptions of risk by reporting sources, as well as conditions associated with poverty and unemployment. (cf. Pelton, 1981, Hampton and Newberger, 1985, McPherson and Garcia, 1983).

In the Highlights report of 1985 (American Association for Protecting Children, 1987), it was suggested that increases in minorities for the distribution of children were attributable to the limited number of states (four) included that year. Indeed, the recalculated distribution with 21 states is similar to both 1984 and 1986.

Thirty-three percent of the reported families are headed by a single female caretaker, compared to 23 percent of all U.S. families with children under age 18 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1985, P-20, 398). The decline in this statistic has been fairly consistent since 1982 and may be due to the increases in sexual abuse reporting as such cases have a higher proportion of two-parent households.

The proportion of all reported families who are receiving public assistance is 48 percent, compared to only about 12 percent of all U.S. families. (U.S. Census Bureau, 1985, Statistical Abstract of the United States - 1985).

Maltreatment

Table 6 shows the distribution of involved children for whom maltreatment information was available across categories of maltreatment. Information for both 1985 and 1986 is provided. Note that, because a child could have experienced more than one type, the total is greater than 100 percent.

Table 6

Type Of Maltreatment

Type Of Maltreatment	Percent Of Children	
	1986 (N = 323,016)[1]	1985 (N = 431,550)[2]
Major Physical Injury	2.6%	2.8%
Minor Physical Injury	13.9%	17.8%
Unspecified Physical Injury	11.1%	3.3%
Sexual Maltreatment	15.7%	13.8%
Deprivation of Necessities	54.9%	53.6%
Emotional Maltreatment	8.3%	11.5%
Other Maltreatment	7.9%	7.7%

[1] *The distribution for 1986 is based on 16 states constituting 41 percent of the U.S. child population.*
[2] *The distribution for 1985 is based on 17 states constituting 46 percent of the U.S. child population and is corrected for the 1985 Highlights (AAPC, 1987, p. 16).*

The percent of sexual abuse cases increased between 1983 and 1986, from approximately nine percent to 16 percent of all maltreated children, thus continuing a major trend.

Other increases occurred in the percent of unspecified physical injury with a concurrent decline in minor physical injury. This change is probably an artifact of the differences in classification used by the states represented in the 1986 distribution versus those from 1985. "Other maltreatment" includes abandonment and forms of maltreatment which could not be included in the specified categories.

Beginning with 1985, the percentage of deprivation of necessities appears to have stabilized at about 54 to 55 percent. Prior to 1984, this category had been at a level of 58 to 62 percent.

Rates and estimates for reported children for the five maltreatment types defined by the Reporting Study are provided in Table 7. The distributional characteristics of these rates are presented in Appendix C.

Table 7

National Estimate of Rates and Numbers of Children Maltreated In 1986

Maltreatment Type	Estimated No. of Children in Thousands	Rate Per 10,000 Children[1]
Major Physical Injury	21	3.34
Minor Physical Injury	115	18.21
Other Physical Injury	84	13.26
Sexual Maltreatment	132	20.89
Deprivation of Necessities	429	67.78
Emotional Maltreatment	71	11.20
Other Maltreatment	34	5.43
All Maltreatment	784	123.86

[1] *Data for these rates are obtained from 14 states with compatible maltreatment data constituting 35 percent of the U.S. child population. Owing to incompatibilities in enumeration of data in case files and which have little effect on percentage distributions, data from two states are excluded from this table. The point estimate for these rates is the total number of children indicated as maltreated divided by the under 18 population in the 14 states.*

As is clear from Table 8, estimates of the number of children sexually maltreated and the rate of sexual maltreatment have increased significantly between 1976 and 1986. In particular, the increase in 1985 in the proportion of sexual maltreatment translates into an increase of about 27 percent from 1984 in the estimated number

Table 8

National Estimate Of Rates And Numbers Of Children Reported As Sexually Maltreated

Year	Estimated No. of Children in Thousands	Rate Per 10,000 Children	Percent of U.S. Child Population From Which Rate Was Derived
1976	6	0.86	33%
1977	11	1.74	36%
1978	12	1.87	43%
1979	27	4.23	42%
1980	37	5.76	43%
1981	35	5.55	47%
1982	57	9.01	40%
1983	74	11.86	46%
1984	100	15.88	41%
1985	127	20.22	34%
1986	132	20.89[1]	35%

[1] *The 95 percent Confidence Interval associated with this statistic is 11.81 to 29.97 per 10,000 children, and the error reflects state level variability among 14 states. The range of variation is 3.9 to 66.8 per 10,000 children.*

of children who are reported as sexually maltreated throughout the country. The figure provided for 1985 is corrected (see AAPC, 1987).

Fatalities

Data on fatalities reported to CPS are available from 20 of the jurisdictions representing 50 percent of the U.S. child population. The actual number of children who died in 1986 as a result of maltreatment is not available through this study. The characteristics of the 556 fatality cases available in the data are described in this section. Because these data are extracted from so few cases, the reader is cautioned that conclusions drawn from them are subject to misrepresentation.

From Table 9, children who are reported as fatal are much younger compared to all reported children — their average age is 2.8 versus 7.2 years. Males are slightly

Table 9
Fatalities

Descriptors	1986
Involved Child Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 534 Children)	
Average Age	2.8 years
Sex	
(N = 533 Children)	
Males	53.7%
Females	46.3%
Race	
(N = 432 Children)	
White	52.8%
Black	31.7%
Hispanic	11.8%
Other	3.7%
Relationship To Perpetrator	
(N = 322 Children)	
Parental	76.4%
Other Relatives	4.0%
Other	19.6%
Associated Maltreatment Type	
(N = 348)	
Major Physical Injury	29.3%
Physical Injury (including Major Injury)	62.0%
Sexual Maltreatment	4.0%
Deprivation of Necessities	44.3%
Emotional Maltreatment	1.4%
Other Maltreatment	7.5%
Source Of Report	
(N = 420)	
Medical Personnel	36.7%
School Personnel	1.7%
Social Services	9.3%
Law Enforcement	32.9%
Child Care	1.2%
Friends, Neighbors, Relatives, Self	10.7%
Anonymous	2.8%
Other	4.8%

Descriptors	1986
Caretaker Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 202)	
Average Age	26.7 years
Sex	
(N = 260)	
Males	42.7%
Females	57.3%
Race	
(N = 169)	
White	55.0%
Black	34.9%
Hispanic	5.3%
Other	4.8%
Family Descriptors	
Caretakers Composition	
(N = 149 Family Reports)	
Single-Female-Headed Families	24.2%
Children In Household	
(N = 393 Reports)	
Average Number of Children in Household	2.28
Perpetrator Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 491 Perpetrators)	
Average Age	27.3 years
Sex	
(N = 537 Perpetrators)	
Males	44.3%
Females	55.7%
Race	
(N = 455 Perpetrators)	
White	50.1%
Black	35.6%
Hispanic	12.8%
Other	1.5%

over-represented by comparison with all involved children, 54 percent of fatalities versus 48 percent of all reported children. Black children associated with fatalities also represent a greater proportion compared to all involved children, while whites are lower. Compared to all reports, perpetrators are somewhat less likely to be parents or other relatives; for all reports 11 percent of the reported children are associated with unrelated perpetrators compared to 20 percent for children that died.

The most frequently associated type of maltreatment for fatalities in 1986 was physical injury which is indicated for 62 percent of the fatalities, followed by deprivation of necessities (44 percent).

The single largest group of reporting sources for fatalities is medical personnel (37 percent), followed by law enforcement (33 percent). In total, professional sources account for 82 percent of fatality reports compared to 54 percent of all child abuse and neglect reports.

In 24 percent of the reported fatality cases, there is only a single female caretaker. This is similar to families associated with maltreated children, but differs from all reported families where a single female caretaker is present in 33 percent.

Maltreatment Profiles

Maltreatment profiles have been derived from the National Study data base in order to describe the types of abuse and neglect experienced by victims. From over 30 specific types of injuries and forms of abuse or neglect, the major dimensions defined for the purpose of this analysis are:

- Physical Injury
- Sexual Abuse and/or Exploitation
- Emotional Injury
- Neglect (Deprivation of Necessities)
- Other Maltreatment

Additionally, the Physical Injury group has been further subdivided as follows:

- Major Physical Injury
- Minor Physical Injury

Types of maltreatment reported to the National Study are frequently provided as a multiple response item. That is, multiple maltreatment types are reported for each victim where appropriate. Overall, multiple maltreatment types are reported for 17 percent of all victims, and an average of 1.25 maltreatment codes were reported for each involved child. In order to more fully describe the maltreatment profiles of victims, associated maltreatments are presented to show the extent to which other maltreatments occur in conjunction with the maltreatment being described.

All Maltreatment Types

The reported characteristics of involved children with all maltreatment types are summarized in Table 10.1. Among the noteworthy trends is the clear association between victims of child abuse and neglect and families experiencing severe coping difficulties: economically, socially, interpersonally.

Whereas only 10 percent of these cases result in the child's being removed from the home to placement services, four out of five (82 percent) require protective services beyond investigation.

All Physical Abuse

The reported characteristics of involved children with all types of physical abuse including those with Major Physical Injury, Minor Physical Injury, and Physical Injury with Unknown or Unspecified Severity are shown in Table 10.2A. The age, sex, and ethnicity distributions for both victims and perpetrators are similar to All Maltreatment Types. As shown in Figure 5 (page 20), there are slightly more male victims and male perpetrators. The most common type of associated maltreatment reported is neglect, but this is reported for only 12 percent of all involved children.

Family characteristics which differ from All Maltreatment Types are a smaller percentage of single-female-headed households, as well as a smaller percentage of families experiencing economic or living problems. Interestingly, cases reporting physical abuse result in fewer court actions and fewer placements than overall.

Major Versus Minor Physical Abuse

Tables 10.2B and 10.2C show the reported characteristics of Major Physical Injury and Minor Physical Injury, respectively. Several clear differences are evident. Children with major injuries tend to be much younger, with an average age of 5.54 versus 8.29 for children with minor injuries. Perpetrators are more likely to be female for children with major injuries, perhaps because of the more prominent role of mothers in caring for younger children. There is also a higher percentage of black children and black perpetrators involved in reports of Major Physical Injury.

Further differences highlighted by Figure 6 are lower percentages of unemployed caretakers and economic/living problems associated with Minor Physical Injury. Case disposition for Major Physical Injury resulted in court action and placement services more frequently.

Sexual Abuse and/or Exploitation

The reported characteristics of sexually abused children are shown in Table 10.3. These victims are older, predominantly female (77.2 percent), and are more likely to be white. Males account for 82 percent of all perpetrators, and frequently, are a nonparent relative (23 percent) or not related to the victim (35 percent). Generally, sexual abuse or exploitation is not accompanied by reports of other forms of maltreatment.

Unemployed caretakers and families with economic problems are reported less frequently in sexual abuse cases. However, disposition more frequently results in court action (22 percent).

Neglect (Deprivation of Necessities)

The most common type of maltreatment reported is Neglect, evident in 54 percent of all cases. The reported characteristics of neglected children are shown in Table 10.4, with comparisons to All Maltreatment depicted in Figure 8. The age, sex, and ethnic characteristics for both perpetrators and victims are similar to All Maltreatment cases with one notable exception: there is a higher percentage of female perpetrators (70 percent). This finding is corroborated by the fact that head of households are single females at a much higher rate, 51 percent for Neglect reports compared to 36 percent for All Maltreatment.

Employment and economic difficulties are also reported at higher rates. Protective services are provided for 81 percent of all cases, the same level as for All Maltreatment (82 percent). Case dispositions involving court action and placement are also consistent with All Maltreatment.

Emotional Maltreatment

The reported characteristics associated with Emotional Maltreatment are shown in Table 10.5. The indexes in Figure 9 show that children and perpetrators in these cases are more likely to be white. For children, the proportion with white ethnicity is 77 percent compared to 67 percent for All Maltreatment. For perpetrators, this proportion is 81 percent compared to 69 percent for All Maltreatment. Both black and Hispanic families are less likely to be associated with Emotional Maltreatment. Parents are somewhat more likely to be identified as perpetrators, in 90 percent of all reports.

Associated maltreatments are commonly reported with Physical Injury and Neglect accompanying Emotional Maltreatment in 15 percent and 31 percent of reports, respectively. Although court action occurs at the same rate as for All Maltreatment, cases resulting in placement services do occur at a higher rate.

Other Maltreatment

Other Maltreatment reports include a high percentage of abandonment (26 percent), as well as lack of supervision. Table 10.6 shows that the most common form of associated maltreatment is neglect, for 37 percent of Other Maltreatment reports. Other Maltreatment reports appear to reflect an ethnic difference; 28 percent of all victims are black compared to 18 percent for All Maltreatment. Similarly, 26 percent of all perpetrators are black compared to 17 percent for All Maltreatment. Perpetrators are more likely to be female, for 66 percent of Other Maltreatment reports compared to 53 percent for All Maltreatment.

Whereas employment and economic difficulties for Other Maltreatment are consistent with All Maltreatment, health problems at 56 percent are clearly higher than for All Maltreatment. Case dispositions involve court action (30 percent) and placement services (23 percent) at a higher rate than all other major maltreatment groups.

Table 10.1

All Maltreatment Types

Descriptors	1986
Involved Child Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 471,133 Children)	
Average Age	7.27
Sex	
(N = 477,027 Children)	
Males	46.5%
Females	53.5%
Race	
(N = 364,450 Children)	
White	67.2%
Black	18.0%
Hispanic	11.4%
Other	3.5%
Associated Maltreatment	
(N = 323,016)	
Physical	26.3%
Sexual	15.7%
Emotional	8.3%
Neglect	54.9%
Other	7.9%
Relationship To Perpetrators	
(N = 175,649)	
Parent	80.8%
Other Relative	7.3%
Unrelated	11.9%
Family Descriptors	
Caretaker Composition	
(N = 61,326 Family Reports)	
Single-Female-Headed Families	25.4%
Employment	
(N = 35,379)	
Unemployed Caretaker	35.0%
Stress Factors	
(N = 61,191)	
Health Problems	42.8%
Economic/Living Problems	40.8%
Family Interaction Problems	75.4%
Perpetrator Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 234,901 Perpetrators)	
Average Age	31.7
Sex	
(N = 264,339 Perpetrators)	
Males	46.7%
Females	53.3%
Race	
(N = 247,952 Perpetrators)	
White	68.8%
Black	17.3%
Hispanic	11.4%
Other	2.5%
Case Descriptors	
(N = 121,665)	
Protective Services	82.1%
Service Types[1]	
(N = 237,257)	
Court Action	15.9%
(N = 132,068)	
Placement Services	10.3%
(N = 35,626)	
Health Services	30.2%

[1] *The three service types Court Action, Placement Services, and Health Services are independent of one another and are drawn from different sets of states. For Court Action, 18 states are included; Placement Services, 15 states; and Health Services, eight states.*

Table 10.2A

All Physical Abuse

Descriptors	1986
Involved Child Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 123,810 Children)	
Average Age	8.01
Sex	
(N = 125,531 Children)	
Males	50.9%
Females	49.1%
Race	
(N = 97,346 Children)	
White	68.2%
Black	16.1%
Hispanic	11.5%
Other	4.2%
Associated Maltreatment	
(N = 85,045)	
Sexual	2.9%
Emotional	5.6%
Neglect	12.3%
Other	3.5%
Relationship To Perpetrator	
(N = 48,789)	
Parent	81.9%
Other Relative	5.5%
Unrelated	12.6%
Family Descriptors	
Caretaker Composition	
(N = 19,366 Family Reports)	
Single-Female-Headed Families	25.4%
Employment	
(N = 10,563)	
Unemployed Caretaker	29.0%
Stress Factors	
(N = 20,657)	
Health Problems	40.4%
Economic/Living Problems	30.2%
Family Interaction Problems	83.0%
Perpetrator Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 80,229 Perpetrators)	
Average Age	32.1
Sex	
(N = 87,100 Perpetrators)	
Males	50.5%
Females	49.5%
Race	
(N = 80,964 Perpetrators)	
White	66.7%
Black	17.6%
Hispanic	12.5%
Other	3.2%
Case Disposition	
(N = 40,026)	
Protective Services	80.0%
Service Types	
(N = 77,506)	
Court Action	12.9%
(N = 41,795)	
Placement Services	9.6%
(N = 12,910)	
Health Services	33.9%

Table 10.2B

Major Physical Abuse

Descriptors	1986
Involved Child Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 10,037 Children)	
Average Age	5.54
Sex	
(N = 10,087 Children)	
Males	54.2%
Females	45.8%
Race	
(N =7,528 Children)	
White	64.5%
Black	21.2%
Hispanic	9.4%
Other	5.0%
Associated Maltreatment	
(N = 8,232)	
Sexual	2.5%
Emotional	4.5%
Neglect	19.2%
Other	5.0%
Minor Physical	24.1%
Relationship To Perpetrator	
(N = 5,836)	
Parent	79.7%
Other Relative	6.5%
Unrelated	13.7%
Family Descriptors	
Caretaker Composition	
(N = 2,977 Family Reports)	
Single-Female-Headed Families	24.2%
Employment	
(N = 1,235)	
Unemployed Caretaker	34.7%
Stress Factors	
(N = 1,896)	
Health Problems	37.8%
Economic/Living Problems	37.3%
Family Interaction Problems	83.5%
Perpetrator Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 8,453 Perpetrators)	
Average Age	29.0
Sex	
(N = 9,041 Perpetrators)	
Males	43.2%
Females	56.8%
Race	
(N = 7,462 Perpetrators)	
White	62.1%
Black	22.8%
Hispanic	10.8%
Other	4.3%
Case Disposition	
(N = 5,134)	
Protective Services	84.0%
Service Types	
(N = 6,279)	
Court Action	20.0%
(N = 4,051)	
Placement Services	13.8%
(N = 1,781)	
Health Services	35.5%

Table 10.2C

Minor Physical Abuse

Descriptors	1986
Involved Child Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 48,757 Children)	
Average Age	8.29
Sex	
(N = 49,010 Children)	
Males	50.4%
Females	49.6%
Race	
(N = 39,005 Children)	
White	68.9%
Black	17.1%
Hispanic	9.8%
Other	4.3%
Associated Maltreatment	
(N = 44,960)	
Sexual	3.4%
Emotional	8.4%
Neglect	11.1%
Other	4.9%
Major Physical	4.4%
Relationship To Perpetrator	
(N = 29,566)	
Parent	79.7%
Other Relative	6.5%
Unrelated	13.7%
Family Descriptors	
Caretaker Composition	
(N = 14,902 Family Reports)	
Single-Female-Headed Families	24.7%
Employment	
(N =8,517)	
Unemployed Caretaker	28.1%
Stress Factors	
(N = 12,993)	
Health Problems	36.9%
Economic/Living Problems	28.8%
Family Interaction Problems	87.4%
Perpetrator Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 36,991 Perpetrators)	
Average Age	32.2
Sex	
(N = 41,605 Perpetrators)	
Males	51.5%
Females	48.5%
Race	
(N = 37,05[illegible] Perpetrators)	
White	72.9%
Black	14.4%
Hispanic	6.1%
Other	6.6%
Case Disposition	
(N = 17,640)	
Protective Services	77.0%
Service Types	
(N = 32,388)	
Court Action	14.9%
(N = 22,818)	
Placement Services	9.8%
(N = 9,816)	
Health Services	38.7%

Table 10.3

Sexual Abuse/Exploitation

Descriptors	1986
Involved Child Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 82,385 Children)	
Average Age	9.19
Sex	
(N = 83,946 Children)	
Males	22.8%
Females	77.2%
Race	
(N = 62,054 Children)	
White	77.4%
Black	11.1%
Hispanic	8.9%
Other	2.7%
Associated Maltreatment	
(N = 50,700)	
All Physical	3.2%
Emotional	2.8%
Neglect	7.6%
Other	3.5%
Relationship To Perpetrator	
(N = 35,845)	
Parent	42.0%
Other Relative	22.8%
Unrelated	35.2%
Family Descriptors	
Caretaker Composition	
(N = 14,431 Family Reports)	
Single-Female-Headed Families	23.9%

Descriptors	1986
Employment	
(N = 5,756)	
Unemployed Caretaker	26.1%
Stress Factors	
(N = 9,354)	
Health Problems	52.7%
Economic/Living Problems	30.6%
Family Interaction Problems	67.1%
Perpetrator Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 49,868 Perpetrators)	
Average Age	32.5
Sex	
(N = 54,753 Perpetrators)	
Males	82.4%
Females	17.6%
Race	
(N = 48,046 Perpetrators)	
White	74.2%
Black	13.6%
Hispanic	10.4%
Other	1.8%
Case Disposition	
(N = 27,721)	
Protective Services	86.4%
Service Types	
(N = 46,009)	
Court Action	21.5%
(N = 25,718)	
Placement Services	11.3%
(N = 6,958)	
Health Services	41.2%

Table 10.4

Neglect (Deprivation of Necessities)

Descriptors	1986
Involved Child Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 246,480 Children)	
Average Age	6.18
Sex	
(N = 248,993 Children)	
Males	51.5%
Females	48.5%
Race	
(N = 193,803 Children)	
White	63.3%
Black	20.7%
Hispanic	12.6%
Other	5.3%
Associated Maltreatment	
(N = 177,277)	
Sexual	2.2%
Emotional	4.6%
Other	5.3%
All Physical	3.0%
Relationship To Perpetrator	
(N = 88,287)	
Parent	92.1%
Other Relative	3.3%
Unrelated	4.6%
Family Descriptors	
Caretaker Composition	
(N = 23,801 Family Reports)	
Single-Female-Headed Families	50.9%
Employment	
(N = 17,830)	
Unemployed Caretaker	42.2%
Stress Factors	
(N = 29,538)	
Health Problems	41.0%
Economic/Living Problems	52.1%
Family Interaction Problems	71.9%
Perpetrator Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 118,710 Perpetrators)	
Average Age	30.7
Sex	
(N = 126,210 Perpetrators)	
Males	30.3%
Females	69.7%
Race	
(N = 122,765 Perpetrators)	
White	67.7%
Black	18.1%
Hispanic	11.8%
Other	2.4%
Case Disposition	
(N = 52,579)	
Protective Services	81.1%
Service Types	
(N = 108,079)	
Court Action	15.7%
(N = 61,959)	
Placement Services	10.6%
(N = 14,553)	
Health Services	22.2%

Table 10.5

Emotional Maltreatment

Descriptors	1986
Involved Child Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 42,879 Children)	
Average Age	7.87
Sex	
(N = 43,243 Children)	
Males	47.8%
Females	52.2%
Race	
(N = 35,651 Children)	
White	77.1%
Black	11.4%
Hispanic	7.8%
Other	3.7%
Associated Maltreatment	
(N = 26,667)	
All Physical	15.1%
Sexual	5.3%
Neglect	30.5%
Other	6.2%
Relationship To Perpetrator	
(N = 18,003)	
Parent	89.8%
Other Relative	3.4%
Unrelated	6.8%
Family Descriptors	
Caretaker Composition	
(N = 5,005 Family Reports)	
Single-Female-Headed Families	33.5%
Employment	
(N = 6,098)	
Unemployed Caretaker	33.3%
Stress Factors	
(N = 8,238)	
Health Problems	49.5%
Economic/Living Problems	42.4%
Family Interaction Problems	85.9%
Perpetrator Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 20,416 Perpetrators)	
Average Age	33.4
Sex	
(N = 21,032 Perpetrators)	
Males	42.0%
Females	58.0%
Race	
(N = 19,289 Perpetrators)	
White	80.7%
Black	9.0%
Hispanic	7.0%
Other	3.3%
Case Disposition	
(N = 9,376)	
Protective Services	87.6%
Service Types	
(N = 23,705)	
Court Action	16.0%
(N = 9,686)	
Placement Services	14.5%
(N = 4,626)	
Health Services	40.4%

Table 10.6

Other Maltreatment

Descriptors	1986
Involved Child Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 29,235 Children)	
Average Age	7.00
Sex	
(N = 29,454 Children)	
Males	49.7%
Females	50.3%
Race	
(N = 25,290 Children)	
White	53.1%
Black	28.1%
Hispanic	11.1%
Other	7.7%
Associated Maltreatment	
(N = 25,539)	
Sexual	6.9%
Emotional	6.4%
Neglect	36.8%
All Physical	9.3%
Relationship To Perpetrator	
(N = 10,616)	
Parent	89.1%
Other Relative	4.4%
Unrelated	6.4%
Family Descriptors	
Caretaker Composition	
(N =9,609 Family Reports)	
Single-Female-Headed Families	36.1%
Employment	
(N = 1,193)	
Unemployed Caretaker	40.4%
Stress Factors	
(N = 2,593)	
Health Problems	56.3%
Economic/Living Problems	44.4%
Family Interaction Problems	79.2%
Perpetrator Descriptors	
Age	
(N = 19,393 Perpetrators)	
Average Age	31.7
Sex	
(N = 21,766 Perpetrators)	
Males	34.5%
Females	65.5%
Race	
(N = 20,543 Perpetrators)	
White	57.4%
Black	26.2%
Hispanic	10.9%
Other	5.5%
Case Disposition	
(N = 5,063)	
Protective Services	88.5%
Service Types	
(N = 9,338)	
Court Action	30.1%
(N = 6,865)	
Placement Services	23.1%
(N = 2,466)	
Health Services	33.8%

A series of bar graphs in figures 5 through 10 have been constructed to facilitate comparisons between each individual maltreatment group and All Maltreatment Types. Briefly, for each variable being examined, the All Maltreatment percentage was chosen as the base (i.e., indexed at 100), and divided into the percentage for the same variable in the comparison group. For example, since the percentage of male victims for Major Physical Injury is 54.2 percent compared to 46.5 percent for All Maltreatment victims, the Major Physical Injury index for male victims is 117 (54.2/46.5), indicating that 17 percent more males than expected were reported. The bar graphs in Figures 4 through 9 show the extent to which the variable under consideration is higher (or lower for bars below the All Maltreatment line) than expected for the comparison group relative to the All Maltreatment group. The actual percentages reported in Tables 10.1 through 10.6 represent the actual relative frequencies for each variable, but the bar graphs are useful to highlight where the more substantial differences occur.

Figure 5.
Selected Indexes to Compare All Maltreatment Types Against:
All Physical Abuse

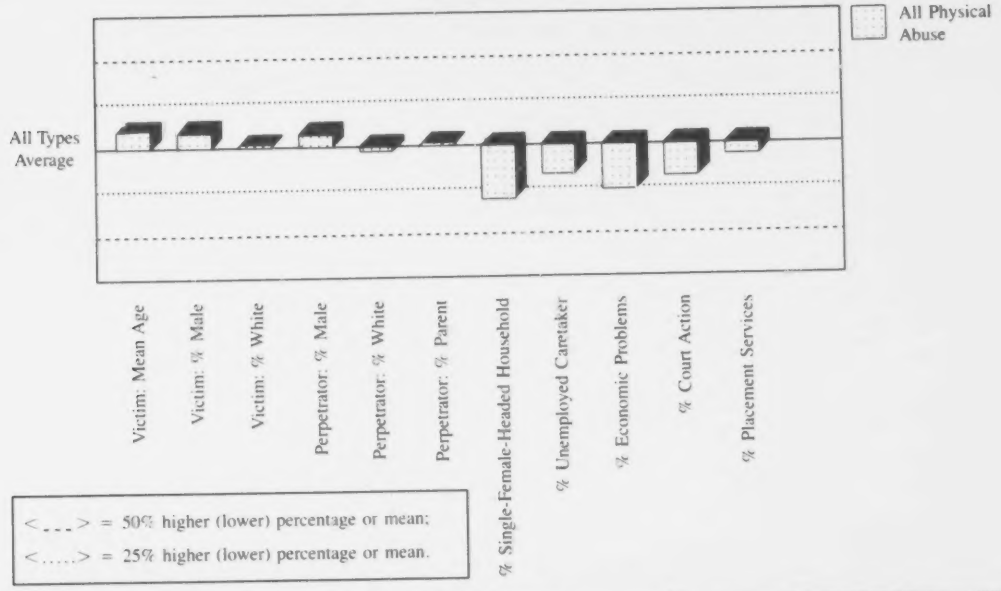


Figure 6.
Selected Indexes to Compare All Maltreatment Types Against:
Major Physical and Minor Physical Injury

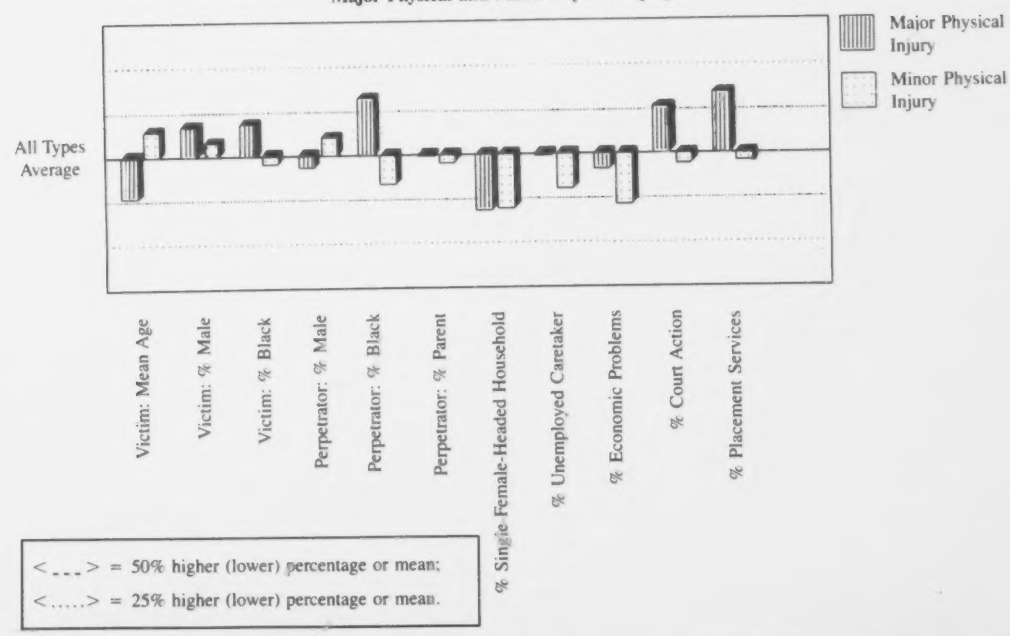


Figure 7.
Selected Indexes to Compare All Maltreatment Types Against:
Sexual Abuse/Exploitation

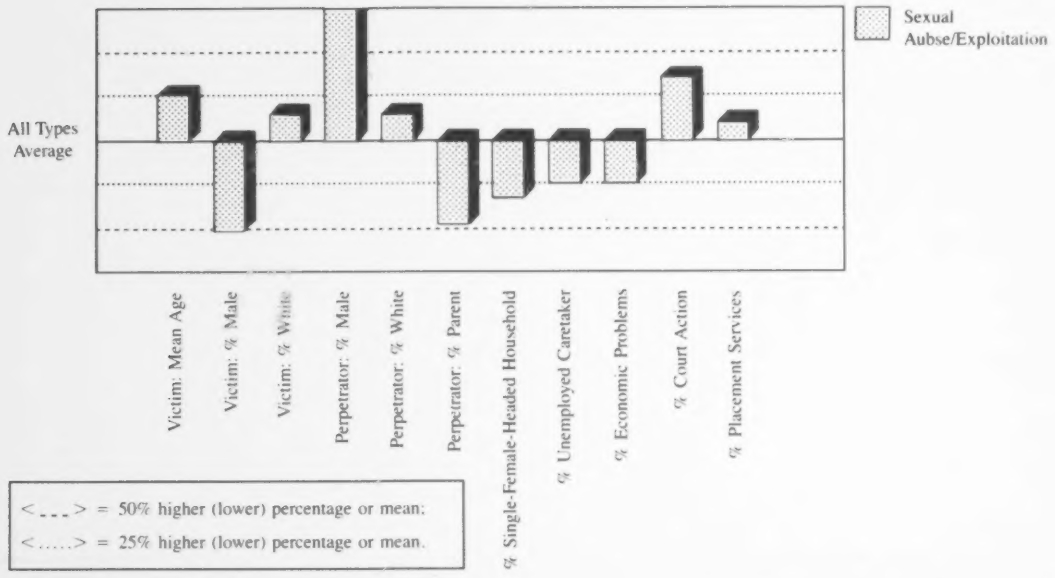


Figure 8.
Selected Indexes to Compare All Maltreatment Types Against:
Neglect (Deprivation of Necessities)

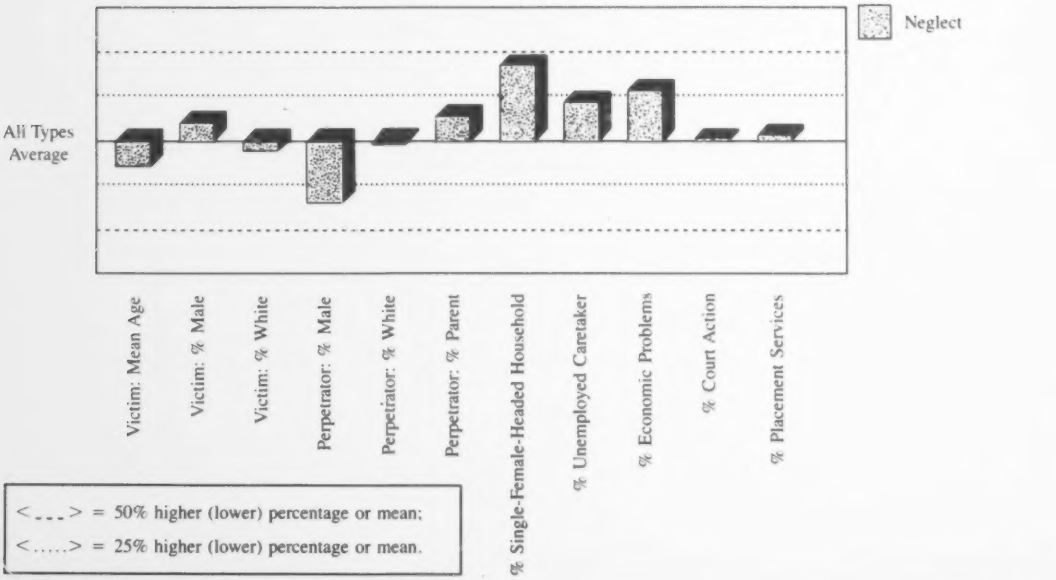


Figure 9.
Selected Indexes to Compare All Maltreatment Types Against:
Emotional Maltreatment

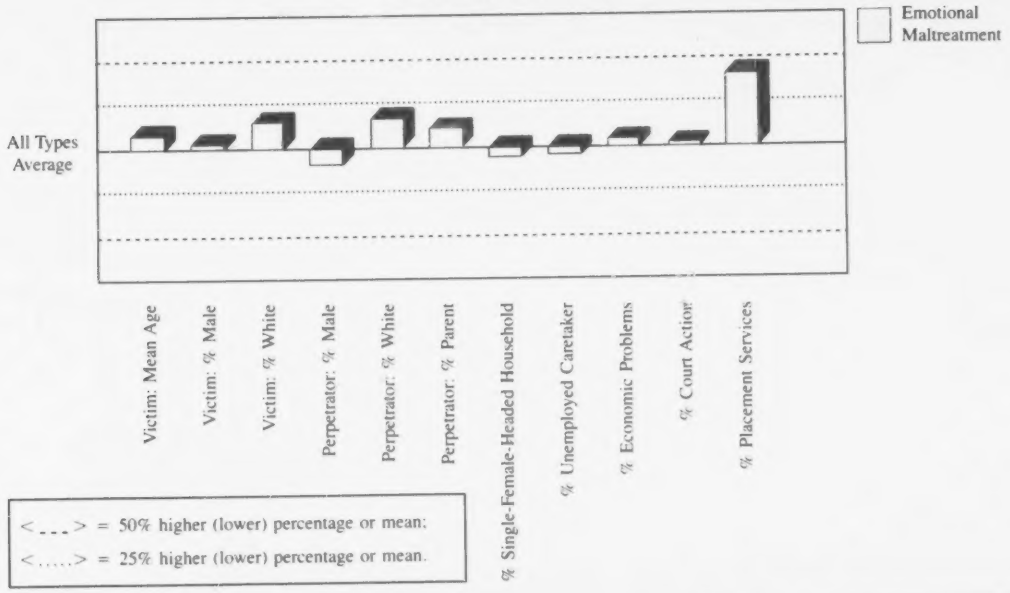
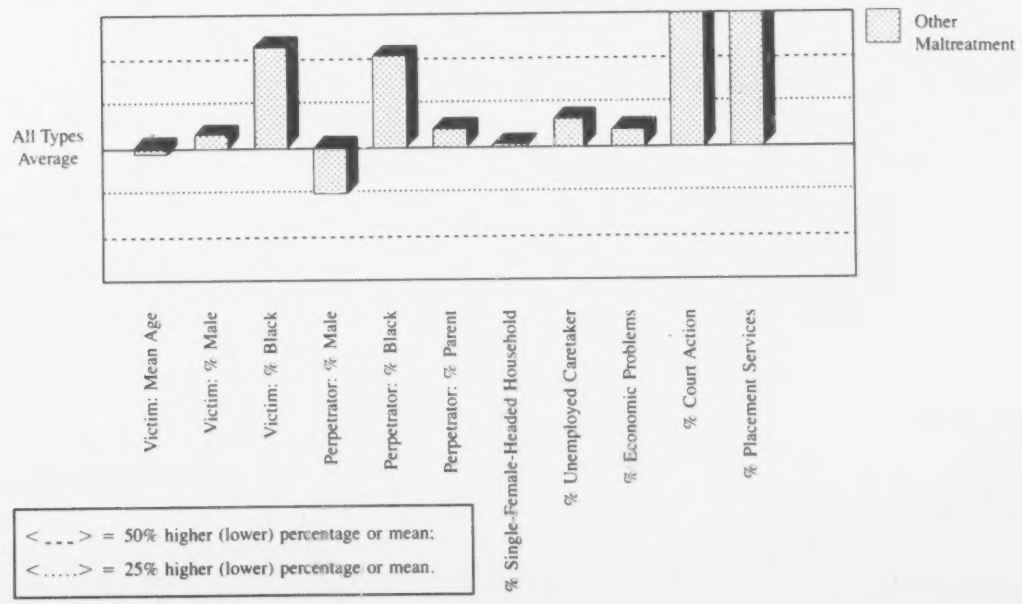


Figure 10.
Selected Indexes to Compare All Maltreatment Types Against:
Other Maltreatment



Characteristics Of CPS Responses To Maltreatment Reports

Case Status

Case status refers to the judgment concerning what action protective services will take during or especially after an investigation of abuse or neglect. Among the alternative decisions made by child protective service workers is whether to provide services to the child and family. In some instances, even though maltreatment has occurred, such service may not be offered for a variety of reasons including the accessibility of the family and their willingness to accept service, the severity of the case, issues of state policy, and availability of resources. Table 11.1 shows the distribution of reports across the four categories of case status defined by this study. The "other" status category includes cases where the family could not be located or where cases were referred to services other than CPS. Twelve states are included in this distribution.

Table 11.1
Case Status
(N = 199,479 Reports)

Case Status	Percent of Reports
Currently Under Investigation	0.6%
Case Closed After Investigation	52.0%
Opened for Protective Services	44.9%
Other Status	2.5%
Total	**100.0%**

Case Status and Source of Report

Except for law enforcement personnel, "other" sources, and nonprofessionals, Table 11.2 demonstrates that the various report sources were evenly divided between "case closed after the investigation" and "opened for protective services." The difference in the total percentages between Table 11.1 and Table 11.2 are due to the exclusion of some states in Table 11.2 owing to incompatible or missing source of report data. Reports by law enforcement were most likely to result in protective services (56 percent); those made by "other" sources, which includes anonymous reporters, were least likely to do so (25 percent). As a group, reports by nonprofessionals were least likely to result in protective services compared to all the professional groups. This lower level of service provision for reports by nonprofessionals does not necessarily imply that reports from such sources are less likely to be valid. Other conditions, such as bias in the reporting system toward professionals, or the nature and completeness of reports by nonprofessionals, may also be operating.

Case Status and Type of Maltreatment

Table 11.3 for 1986 reflects data from 12 states where maltreatment indications were made only as a result of an investigation and it is normally at this point that the decision to provide additional services is made. About 16 percent of the cases where a child is identified as maltreated are closed after the investigation. Some of these families may not have needed services, others may have have received services during the investigation and may not need further services. It is also possible that some of these families and children needed services and did not receive them due to resource limitations, refusal of services by the family or for other reasons.

Table 11.2

Case Status and Source of Report
(N = 162,906)

Status	Medical Personnel (N = 17,079)	School Personnel (N = 25,577)	Social Services (N = 21,935)	Law Enforcement (N = 15,724)	Child Care (N = 3,655)	Non-Professionals (N = 60,240)	Percent of Other (N = 18,696)	All Reports (N = 162,906)
Currently Under Investigation	0.60%	0.75%	0.74%	0.69%	0.44%	0.71%	0.42%	0.67%
Case Closed After Investigation	48.37%	51.23%	49.99%	43.13%	53.43%	60.61%	73.98%	56.11%
Open For Protective Services	50.55%	47.77%	48.52%	55.62%	45.58%	38.18%	25.03%	42.71%
Other Status	0.47%	0.25%	0.75%	0.56%	0.55%	0.50%	0.57%	0.51%
Total	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**

Table 11.3

Case Status and Type of Indicated Maltreatment

Case Status	Physical Injury (N = 40,026)	Sexual Maltreatment (N = 14,153)	Deprivation of Necessities (N = 27,721)	Emotional Maltreatment (N = 9,376)	Other Maltreatment (N = 5,063)	Percent of All Maltreated Children[1] (N = 121,665)
Currently Under Investigation	0.5%	0.4%	0.9%	1.1%	0.3%	0.6%
Case Closed After Investigation	17.2%	10.2%	17.7%	11.1%	11.1%	15.7%
Open for Protective Services	80.0%	86.4%	81.1%	87.6%	88.5%	82.1%
Other Status	2.3%	3.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	1.6%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

[1] *The number of children for each category of maltreatment does not equal the total number of children since a child may experience more than one maltreatment type.*

The relationships between maltreatment and case status are consistent from prior years. Emotional and other maltreatment are the most likely to be opened for services (88 and 89 percent respectively) followed by sexual maltreatment (86 percent) and deprivation of necessities (81 percent).

Services Provided

The distribution of cases opened for protective services across categories of services is shown in Table 11.4. Data for this table is from five states. Note that "casework counseling" refers to continued involvement on the part of a CPS worker with the family and encompasses a variety of activities. Immediate or short-term crisis services include emergency medical care and emergency shelter care. Long-term services include, for example, foster care, homemaker and day care services. Eighty-five percent of the cases received two or more categories of services.

Since 1980, the percentage of services involving court action has increased from 13.7 percent to 30.2 percent in 1984. Since then the percentage has declined to 25 percent in 1986. Court action can mean any activity from filing a petition through criminal prosecution; it is an inclusive category. This overall increase since 1980 may reflect the general trend toward more emphasis on law enforcement and legalistic approaches to child protective services. It may also be due to the increased level of sexual maltreatment as these cases are more likely to result in court action.

Table 11.4

Services Provided
(N = 34,740 Cases Opened for Service)

Services	Percentages Of Cases
Investigation Only/Services Planned	1.50%
Casework Counseling	63.00%
Court Action Initiated	24.70%
Immediate or Short-Term Crisis Services[1]	6.70%
Long-Term or Support Services	57.40%
Other Services	13.30%

[1]*See Appendix A for a listing of specific services.*

Summary and Conclusions

There were 2.1 million reports of abused or neglected children nationwide in 1986. This represents an increase of eight percent since 1985 and an increase of 212 percent since 1976.

This increasing volume of children reported for child abuse and neglect represents a monumental effort on the part of communities to identify children needing protection as well as an enormous demand on CPS systems nationwide to investigate the reports and provide protective services.

The rate of reporting has shown an even larger increase from 10.1 children for every 1,000 U.S. children in 1976, to 32.8 children reported in 1986 for every 1,000 U.S. children.

For 1986 it is estimated that 737,000 children were associated with substantiated reports although the number could be as large as 871,000. For the states supplying substantiation counts, about 40 percent of reports are substantiated. This compares to 40 percent substantiation from 1985.

From the reporting data, it appears that the percent of investigations resulting in a substantiated finding have been decreasing since the study began in 1976. On the other hand the actual number of substantiated children continues to rise although more slowly than reporting. It is not possible to know from these data what circumstances underlie those cases which are not substantiated, however, some combination of the following is likely:

1. Variation in definitions of both reports and substantiation.
2. Inappropriate reporting.
3. Insufficient information to conduct an investigation (for instance, the family cannot be located).
4. Lack of resources to assist the child or family.
5. Inadequate investigations.

The estimated substantiation percentage available from this study (40 percent) is not consistent with that obtained by the National Incidence Study (Westat, 1987) which finds a 52 percent rate of substantiation. Further, the Incidence Study percentage increased between 1980 and 1986. Possible reasons for this discrepancy await further study, but may include differences in enumeration methodology, variations due to differences in sampling frames, and other methodological distinctions. Because substantiation data is not available from all states, it is reasonable to suggest that a range of percentages might represent a better approximation.

At the moment, there are few, if any, scientifically valid criteria that can be utilized to determine that a child is not at risk of abuse or neglect. Furthermore, there is still a significant number of children who are not known to child protective services, but who are abused or neglected. Knowing this makes it difficult to conceive of a systematic way to discourage reporting which would still leave children protected.

Twenty-eight states were able to provide computer data files of their reporting data to the study in 1986 encompassing 808,000 individual children. This represents 37 percent of total reporting nationwide.

The analysis of data for 1986 reflects a growing sophistication in understanding of the data and data systems extant in the states. The care taken in comparing and interpreting data appropriately based on this growing sophistication lends more confidence to the findings.

The major patterns in the 1986 data can be summarized as follows:

- Neglect as a type of report declined between 1984 and 1986 from 58 to 48 percent. This is only a relative decrease; total reporting of neglect as well as abuse is rising.
- Professionals are reporting 54 percent of the cases, a rising trend since 1981.
- The average age of the involved children is seven years. An increasing share of involved children are female.
- Whites are under-represented in the reporting data, and racial characteristics of families are consistent over time.
- Almost half the families reported are receiving public assistance; a level which has been consistent since 1984.
- The average age of perpetrators is 31.7 years, consistent over time.
- 43 percent of the children reported are under six years old.
- 32.5 percent of the families reported have a single female caretaker. While still a greater percentage than all families, this percentage has declined since 1982.
- A small increase (four percent) in the level of sexual maltreatment was noted for 1986 compared to 1985. However, based on corrected data, a 27 percent increase was noted between 1984 and 1985.
- 45 percent of the cases reported were opened for protective services with those reported by professionals consistently more likely to be opened.
- Maltreatment profiles indicate the presence of distinct characteristics in children and families depending on the maltreatment indicated.
- Among children whose cases were closed after investigation, 16 percent are indicated as having experienced some form of maltreatment.
- With the exception of Other Maltreatment, Emotional Maltreatment, when identified, had the largest proportion of cases opened for protective services compared to other types of maltreatment for 1986.
- Among cases where children are indicated as maltreated, 16 percent are associated with some form of court action.
- 10 percent of cases with children indicated as maltreated are associated with out-of-home placement.

The data for 1986 reflect two major underlying themes driving child protective services through the mid 1980s. The first is continued impact of increased sexual abuse identification, reporting, and service activity. The second is the controversy associated with the apparently declining rates of substantiation, and the meaning of this possible decrease.

With respect to reporting statistics, the increase in sexual maltreatment appears to be associated with overall increases in professionals reporting to CPS, female children, male perpetrators, and use of the court. There have been corresponding decreases in the proportion of neglect both as a type of report and a type of maltreatment beginning in 1983. There have also been decreases in single-female-headed households. These patterns are consistent with differences in the maltreatment profiles described in this report.

Other patterns that might be expected, but which are not in evidence would be an increase in the average age of children reported, and a shift to more white children reported. It is possible that these expected patterns are washed out by changes in the characteristics of children associated with other maltreatment types. For example, since deprivation of necessities make up such a large share of the maltreated

children, even a minor decline in the average age of children with deprivation of necessities (from 6.4 years in 1984 to 6.2 years in 1986) may account for the relatively stable average age for all reported children.

The reporting data reflect significant changes in the composition of cases that protective services is addressing since the early 1980s. The relative rate of increase in reporting appears to be slowing. Similarly the rate of increase in the level of sexually abused children also appears to be slowing. These trends may indicate that the CPS system is approaching a period of relative stability. If so, the system may have the opportunity to successfully adjust to the massive change that has occurred during the last 10 years.

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Appendix A

Data Items and Response Categories for the National Study Data Base

Appendix A
Data Items and Response Categories For the National Study Data Base

Case and Family Descriptors —

A. Date of Initial Report

1. Date

B. Date Case Status Determined

1. Date

C. Location

1. State or statecode
2. County or countycode
3. District code

D. Number of Children in Home

1. Number

E. Source of Initial Report

1. Medical personnel
   - a. Private physician
   - b. Clinic or hospital physician
   - c. Other medical personnel
   - d. Unspecified/mixed medical personnel
2. School personnel
   - a. School nurse
   - b. Teacher
   - c. Principal
   - d. Other school personnel
3. Social service personnel
   - a. Social worker
   - b. Mental health personnel
   - c. Institutional staff
   - d. Other social service personnel
   - e. Unspecified/mixed social service personnel
4. Law enforcement personnel
   - a. Police
   - b. Courts, attorneys
   - c. Parole, probation officer
   - d. Emergency service personnel
   - e. Other law enforcement personnel
5. Nonprofessionals
   - a. Friend, neighbor
   - b. Victim
   - c. Responsible caretaker
   - d. Perpetrator/self report
   - e. Other family member/relative
   - f. Other nonprofessional
   - g. Unspecified/mixed nonprofessionals
6. Child care providers
   - a. Daycare center
   - b. Preschool/nursery school
   - c. Daycare home
   - d. Babysitter
   - e. Other child care providers
   - f. Unspecified/mixed child care providers
7. Other source of report
   - a. Anonymous
   - b. Other
   - c. Unspecified/mixed source of report
8. Unknown

F. Case Status

1. Currently under investigation
2. Case closed after investigation
3. Protective services provided
4. Other case status
   - a. Case referred for services other than protective
   - b. Cannot locate family
   - c. Other
   - d. Unspecified/mixed case status
5. Unknown

G. Services Provided or Arranged
(maximum of four responses are allowed per report)

1. Investigation only — services expected/planned
2. Casework counseling
3. Court action initiated
4. Immediate or short-term crisis services
   - a. Emergency shelter
   - b. Immediate medical services
   - c. Unspecified/mixed short-term crisis services
5. Long-term or support services
   - a. Foster care or out-of-home placement
   - b. Ongoing health services
   - c. Day care
   - d. Homemaker services
   - e. Budgeting/home management services
   - f. Mental health services/counseling
   - g. Employment services
   - h. Housing assistance

i. Parents Anonymous or community self-help groups
j. Legal services
k. Parenting education
l. Church/neighborhood assistance
m. Financial/public assistance
n. Unspecified/mixed long-term support services

6. Other services
   a. Other
   b. Unspecified/mixed services provided or arranged
7. Family refused services
8. None
9. Unknown

H. Type of Report

1. Abuse
   a. Abuse unsubstantiated
   b. Abuse substantiated
   c. Abuse — substantiation unspecified
2. Neglect
   a. Neglect unsubstantiated
   b. Neglect substantiated
   c. Neglect — substantiation unspecified
3. Abuse and neglect
   a. Abuse/neglect unsubstantiated
   b. Abuse/neglect substantiated
   c. Abuse/neglect — substantiation unspecified
4. Report type unspecified
   a. Unsubstantiated, report type unspecified
   b. Substantiated, report type unspecified
   c. Nonspecified substantiation and report type
5. Other report type
   a. At risk
   b. Other
6. Unknown

I. Family Public Assistance Status
(a maximum of three responses are allowed)

1. Receiving public assistance
   a. Receiving AFDC
   b. Receiving SSI
   c. Receiving food stamps
   d. Receiving Medicaid, Medicare
   e. Receiving WIN
   f. Receiving other public assistance
   g. Receiving unspecified/mixed public assistance
2. Not receiving public assistance
3. Unknown

J. Family Stress Factors
(a maximum of six responses are allowed for each case)

1. Health problems
   a. Alcohol/drug dependency
   b. Medical/physical disability of caretaker
   c. Medical/physical disability of child
   d. Mental retardation of caretaker
   e. Mental retardation of child
   f. Mental/emotional health problem of caretaker
   g. Mental/emotional health problem of child
   h. Other health problems
   i. Unspecified/mixed health problems
2. Economic or physical living conditions
   a. Inadequate housing
   b. Social isolation
   c. Job-related problems
   d. Insufficient income
   e. Transient or unstable living situation
   f. Mismanagement of income
   g. Other economic or physical living condition problems
   h. Unspecified/mixed economic or physical conditions
3. Family interaction problems
   a. Spouse abuse
   b. Chronic family violence
   c. Inability to cope with parenting responsibility
   d. Marital problems/instability
   e. New baby/pregnancy
   f. Disruption of family structure due to death/absence of family member
   g. Other family interaction problems
   h. Unspecified/mixed family interaction problems
4. Other stress factors
   a. Other
   b. Unspecified/mixed stress factors
5. None
6. Unknown

Responsible Caretaker and Perpetrator Descriptors

A. Responsible Caretaker Age

1. Age in years

B. Responsible Caretaker Sex

1. Male
2. Female
3. Unknown

C. Responsible Caretaker Race

1. White
2. Black

3. Hispanic
4. Other race
    a. Asian
    b. Native American
    c. Alaskan Native
    d. Other
    e. Unspecified/mixed other race
5. Unknown

D. Responsible Caretaker Employment Status

1. Employed full time
2. Unemployed
3. Other employment status
    a. Employed less than full time
    b. Temporary employment
    c. Student, not in labor force
    d. Homemaker, not in labor force
    e. Disabled, not in labor force
    f. Unspecified/mixed other employment status
4. Unknown

E. Perpetrator Age

1. Age in years

F. Perpetrator Sex

1. Male
2. Female
3. Unknown

G. Perpetrator Race

1. White
2. Black
3. Hispanic
4. Other
    a. Asian
    b. Native American
    c. Other
    d. Unspecified/mixed other race
5. Unknown

Child Data

A. Child Age

1. Age in years

B. Child Sex

1. Male
2. Female
3. Unknown

C. Child Race

1. White
2. Black
3. Hispanic
4. Other Race
    a. Asian
    b. Native American
    c. Alaskan Native
    d. Other
    e. Unspecified/mixed other race
5. Unknown

D. Child Relationship to Responsible Caretaker

1. Parental
    a. Natural
    b. Step
    c. Adoptive
    d. Foster
    e. Unspecified/mixed parental relationship
2. Other relative
    a. Sibling
    b. Grandchild
    c. Other relative
    d. Unspecified/mixed other relative
3. Other relationship
    a. Boyfriend/girlfriend of parent
    b. State institution
    c. Private institution
    d. Other
    e. Unspecified/mixed other caretaker relationship
4. Unknown

E. Child Relationship to Perpetrator

1. Parental
    a. Natural
    b. Step
    c. Adoptive
    d. Foster
    e. Unspecified/mixed parental relationship
2. Other relative
    a. Sibling
    b. Grandchild
    c. Other relative
    d. Unspecified/mixed other relative
3. Other relationship
    a. Boyfriend/girlfriend of parent
    b. State institutional staff
    c. Private institutional staff
    d. Babysitter
    e. Teacher
    f. Neighbor/friend of parent
    g. No relationship
    h. Other
    i. Unspecified/mixed other perpetrator
4. Unknown

F. Type of Maltreatment
(maximum of five responses are allowed for each child)

1. Major
   a. Brain damage/skull fracture
   b. Subdural hemorrhage or hematoma
   c. Bone fracture
   d. Dislocation/sprains
   e. Internal injuries
   f. Poisoning
   g. Burns/scalds
   h. Severe cuts/lacerations/bruises
   i. Other major physical injury
   j. Unspecified/mixed major physical injuries
2. Minor physical injury
   a. Minor cuts/bruises/welts
   b. Twisting/shaking
   c. Other minor injury
   d. Unspecified/mixed minor physical injuries
3. Physical injury, severity unspecified
   a. Unspecified/mixed physical injury
4. Sexual maltreatment
   a. Incest
   b. Exploitation
   c. Rape/intercourse
   d. Molestation
   e. Other sexual maltreatment
   f. Unspecified/mixed sexual maltreatment
5. Deprivation of necessities
   a. Neglecting to provide nourishment
   b. Neglecting to provide shelter
   c. Neglecting to provide clothing
   d. Neglecting to provide health care
   e. Failure to thrive
   f. Lack of supervision
   g. Educational neglect
   h. Unspecified/mixed deprivation of necessities
6. Emotional maltreatment
   a. Emotional abuse
   b. Emotional neglect
   c. Unspecified/mixed emotional maltreatment
7. Other maltreatment
   a. Abandonment
   b. Other
   c. Unspecified/mixed maltreatment
8. No maltreatment
9. Noninvolved child
10. Unknown

G. Fatality

1. Fatal
2. Nonfatal
3. Unknown

Appendix B

Report Totals of Case Data Participants[1]

	1986	1985
Alaska	3,785	3,790
Colorado	5,195	6,404
District of Columbia	N/A	1,432
Florida	107,297	118,651
Hawaii	3,456	3,173
Illinois	46,695	40,631
Indiana	23,153	N/A
Iowa	17,176	16,696
Kentucky	25,433	10,447
Maine	5,599	5,468
Massachusetts	37,106	31,269
Michigan	45,107	39,437
Minnesota	19,031	15,660
Missouri	18,980	24,089
Nevada	7,321	6,671
New York	71,645	64,840
North Carolina	11,569	19,720
Ohio	N/A	10,469
Oklahoma	12,554	11,257
Oregon	19,834	18,508
Pennsylvania	20,666	20,974
South Carolina	3,776	3,718
Tennessee	33,527	36,663
Texas	70,046	134,688
Utah	11,534	10,727
Vermont	2,551	2,410
Virginia	11,399	11,529
Washington	33,589	N/A
Wisconsin	15,115	13,831
Wyoming	2,462	1,687

[1] *Case data was submitted by Maryland for 1986 but could not be included in the report.*

Appendix C

Information Source and Distributional Characteristics of National Reporting Statistics

Table C1

Source of Information for Family Reports (Investigations)

Source of State Totals	Source Codes	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent
State Computer System	B	28	51.9	51.9
State Hand Count	C	4	7.4	59.3
State Jurisdiction Count	D	3	5.6	64.8
National Family/Child Ratio	F	13	24.1	88.9
Last Year's Figures	H	6	11.1	100.0
Total		**54**	**100.0**	

Source of Information for Child Reports (Investigations)

Source of State Totals	Source Codes	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent
Estimate by State	A	1	1.9	1.9
State Computer System	B	29	53.7	55.6
State Hand Count	C	4	7.4	63.0
State Jurisdiction Count	D	1	1.9	64.8
Other	E	1	1.9	66.7
National Family/Child Ratio	F	9	16.7	83.3
State Family/Child Ratio	G	4	7.4	90.7
Last Year's Figures	H	5	9.3	100.0
Total		**54**	**100.0**	

Table C2

Distributional Characteristics of Reporting Rates

	All States (n = 51)	States Included in Case Data (n = 28)	States Not Included in Case Data (n = 23)
Average Reporting Rate per 1,000 Children	31.97	31.31	32.78
Standard Deviation	11.65	12.37	10.94
Range	51.36	51.36	38.62

Distributional Characteristics of Maltreatment Rates

	Average Reporting Rate for States	Standard Error of the Mean	Range	n
Major Physical Injury	13.93	0.66	9.28	14
Minor Physical Injury	132.63	7.44	90.56	13
Physical Injury, Severity Unspecified	13.68	5.36	58.2	11
Sexual Maltreatment	25.55	4.54	62.89	14
Deprivation of Necessities	86.7	23.28	279.67	14
Emotional Maltreatment	21.97	7.82	91.62	14
Other Maltreatment	9.27	2.85	31.39	14
All Maltreatment	143.19	26.86	415.55	14

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